

Commissioners,

I am writing to you to please be guided by equity and racial justice as you make your final redistricting decisions. We ask that you support modified Map F-1 (OP Map 81) submitted by the People's Bloc. This is the only map that does not dilute the voices of the Black community, keeps the historic eastside communities together and does not break apart the API communities who we stand in solidarity with.

Long Beach Forward stands in solidarity with the People's Bloc and with those who are fighting to keep their communities together. We understand the necessity of elevating the voices of the communities who continue to be disenfranchised by these processes. We urge the commission to select modified Map F-1 (OP Map 81) so that you act on the values that this independent commission was created to uphold.

The commission is making history as being the first independent commission to draw new district lines for the county. However, it is very disappointing to see the voices of black residents being overlooked at the expense of more affluent areas. South LA has historically been a place of residence for the black community and it is the last place in the county where the majority reside. In the last decade the demographics of LA County show that the black population has declined by 7.3% according to the [US Census](#). This is a worrisome trend that has occurred as a result of the community being driven out through racist policies, economic disinvestments, and gentrification. This trend will not improve in the next decade which is why it is important to draw a district that maintains the highest percentage of Black CVAP as seen in modified Map F-1.

Map G, which is being put forward, has very harmful effects to the residents of South LA by pairing more affluent parts of the coast with South LA. The issues and priorities of these two areas are vastly different. South LA has fought for racial justice, affordable housing, and has been one of the communities most impacted by COVID-19. When looking at the [Redistricting Equity Index](#), you can see how these communities are on the complete opposite spectrums and the opportunities for powerbuilding are not there. Historic [SD2 cities share similar economic hardships](#). 74.4% of Watts residents live under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), this figure is 55.6% in Compton,

48.7% in Koreatown, 46.9% in Hawthorne, 42.5 % in Hyde Park, and 38.6% in Inglewood. Just across the 405 Freeway, residents experience very different economic realities. For example, 8.2% of Manhattan Beach residents live below 200% of the FPL, a figure mirrored in other coastal cities (Rolling Hills Estates 8.5%, Palos Verdes Estates 9.7%, Hermosa Beach 10.3%, Rancho Palos Verdes 10.4%, and Redondo Beach 11.4%). Being paired with communities with more wealth and opposite interests will lead to political representation that compromises the needs and interests of South LA in favor of the coastal cities. These differences stretch far beyond economic interests. In the midst of the pandemic, the average number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents was as much as [four to five times higher in historic SD2 cities east of the 405 than neighboring coastal cities](#), highlighting some of the health and economic factors leading to very different lived experiences. The disparities in home ownership, denied mortgage applications, subprime mortgage rates, uninsured population, drinking water contaminants, and [voter turnout](#) are also stark when comparing [communities east of the 405](#) and on the [coast](#). It is crucial for communities of color to have political representation that understands our histories, cultures, and values. All of this will be diluted by pairing South LA with affluent cities on the coast. The pairing of these communities is in no way, shape or form a type of reparations, bringing in assets like the LAX airport is what the community needs.

Map B-2 is also unacceptable as it reduces the representation of communities of color to only elect a candidate of choice in two districts instead of 3 like in the modified Map F-1. It does this by packing black and brown communities in District 2. The remaining 3 district would have the highest white CVAP. This is concerning given the demographics of LA County, where the white population only makes up 30% of the county and where minority communities are the majority.

The modified Map F-1, keeps the Metro API communities whole and unites the API communities in the East San Gabriel Valley such as Walnut, Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. It also brings Temple City and Arcadia into SD1 and keeps them together with other API Communities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, and Rosemead. This is something no other map accomplishes.

I urge the commission to NOT be on the wrong side of history by creating lines that will disenfranchise the communities that we stand in solidarity with and that will take a decade to fix. Please move forward with the modified Map F-1 (Option Map 81) submitted by the People's Bloc.

Respectfully,



We envision a Long Beach where race and income do not determine one's future—a community where everyone is safe, connected, and healthy. www.lbforward.org

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